GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3889
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2001
STATIONING OF ARMY UNITS IN FORTS
CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is militarily expedient to station garrisons in historical sites like Red Fort, Agra Fort etc. and deny the citizens from viewing their heritage;

(b) whether there is a proposal to vacate such historical sites and leave their total care to Archaeological Survey of India (ASI);

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which Army propose to vacate such sites; and

(d) the reasons for continued army presence in historical sites?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) It is necessary at times to station garrisons in some forts. However, restrictions on entry of public to these sites, for security reasons, are only limited to some portions.

(b) & (c): Wherever feasible, important portions of historical value in these sites have been handed over to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

(d) Presence of Army in certain forts has been there traditionally. Moving the Army out of these forts would entail a huge expenditure to the exchequer, in terms of cost of land and construction of infrastructure, required to relocate the troops.